

to these services in multiple, convenient locations. Her achievements in Maine led her to national success, serving as a delegate to the 1995 White House Conference on Aging and a Board member of the National Association of Area Agencies.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in honoring Muriel Scott on her retirement after 34 years of dedication to Maine's elderly.

ADRIAN ESTRADA

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 10, 2011

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Adrian Estrada for receiving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. Adrian Estrada is a 12th grader at Jefferson Senior High and received this award because his determination and hard work have allowed him to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Adrian Estrada is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic which will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Adrian Estrada for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. I have no doubt he will exhibit the same dedication and character in all his future accomplishments.

THE NATIONAL GUARD
EMPLOYMENT PROTECTION ACT

HON. MIKE COFFMAN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 10, 2011

Mr. COFFMAN of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, I am proud to stand before you today to reintroduce the National Guard Employment Protection Act.

I created this legislation in order to extend the same reemployment rights for all of our National Guard personnel, regardless of whether they are assigned to a homeland security mission or deployed overseas to Iraq or Afghanistan. Under current law, the members of the National Guard who are called up for active duty in support of homeland security missions inside the United States are not provided the same reemployment rights to their civilian occupations that other members of the National Guard and Reserve have when they are called to active duty for overseas military assignments.

There is no doubt that the soldiers and the airmen serving in the National Guard must have the same reemployment rights irrespective of where they are ordered to serve. The bill recognizes that those who are called up for homeland security missions can face the same hardships and challenges in trying to return to their civilian employment as someone who has been away from their civilian occupation due to an overseas military assignment.

With the passage of this law, National Guard members will no longer have to worry

about being put into a position where they are forced to choose between retaining their civilian employment or serving our Nation in a critical homeland security mission.

I would like to thank Delegate MADELINE BORDALLO, Representative HARPER and Representative ROE for co-sponsoring again. I urge the passage of this legislation.

IN RECOGNITION OF MR. KIRAN
DESAI

HON. FRANK PALLONE, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 10, 2011

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mr. Kiran Desai, former Chairman of the Old Bridge Township Zoning Board of Adjustment and member of the Township Planning Board. Kiran is being recognized by the New Jersey State Planning Officials Organization as a recipient of the 2011 Achievement in Planning Award for his continued service to the residents of Old Bridge, New Jersey. Kiran continues to demonstrate significant contributions to the planning and development of Old Bridge and is therefore deserving of this body's recognition.

Kiran served as the Chairman of the Township's Zoning Board of Adjustment from 2000 to 2010. A humble, thirty year resident of Old Bridge, Kiran excels in his professional endeavors as a result of his personal relationship with the local residents and neighbors. During his tenure, Kiran has evaluated hundreds of applications and has most notably opposed larger residential developments and retail complexes not suited for the area. Kiran's steadfast determination and clear mission has assisted in balancing the rights of developers with the needs of Old Bridge's large, diverse and growing community. He also proudly continues to place particular emphasis on protecting local environmentally sensitive areas. In January 2011, Kiran transitioned from the Zoning Board of Adjustment to the Old Bridge's Township Planning Board where he spearheads the initiative to review the Township's master plan.

In addition to his professional experience, Kiran has also been active in several other civic organizations. He has served on the Economic Development Corporation and is the former Treasurer of the New Jersey Democratic State Committee. He currently serves as a Commissioner and Secretary of the Old Bridge Municipal Utilities Authority.

Kiran is also very active in the Indian community and various organizations dedicated to preserving cultural roots and further Indian strides within the American community. Kiran is a founding member of the India Cultural Association of Central Jersey and has served as President of Vraj of North America. He is also founding President of the Chh Gaam Patidar Samaj of North America and continues his involvement with countless other cultural organizations. As a result of his outstanding efforts, Kiran was recently awarded the Ellis Island Medal of Honor, an annual award presented to an individual for their contributions by immigrants to the United States.

Mr. Speaker, once again please join me in congratulating Mr. Kiran Desai, the 2011 recipient of the New Jersey State Planning Offi-

cials Organization's Achievement in Planning Award. Mr. Desai's professional accomplishments and community and cultural involvement should be an inspiration to us all.

ARISAI GURROLA

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 10, 2011

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Arisai Gurrola for receiving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. Arisai Gurrola is an 11th grader at Jefferson Senior High and received this award because her determination and hard work have allowed her to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Arisai Gurrola is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic which will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Arisai Gurrola for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. I have no doubt she will exhibit the same dedication and character in all her future accomplishments.

COMMENDING THE MASON SMALL
BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT CENTER

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 10, 2011

Mr. CONNOLLY of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend The Mason Small Business Development Center for being named the 2011 Small Business Development Center of Excellence and Innovation by the Small Business Administration Washington Metro Area District Office. This award recognizes and honors centers that use innovation to provide quality and effective services to small businesses to help them improve program management and delivery.

For more than ten years, The Mason SBDC has helped small businesses throughout Northern Virginia support and business counseling services. It is a successful partnership between the federal government, Commonwealth of Virginia and George Mason University, and it assisted more than 480 small businesses in 2010. The hard work and dedication of the team members from The Mason SBDC has resulted in the retention of more than 1,200 local jobs. The Washington Metropolitan region has greatly benefited from the vitality of the small business sector, and The Mason SBDC is an important part of that success.

Mr. Speaker, I encourage my colleagues to join me in commending The Mason Small Business Development Center and its team members for their efforts on behalf of our nation's small businesses.